GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:305
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF SABARIMALA AND ERUMELI PILGRIM CENTRE
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sabarimala and Erumeli in Kerala are important pilgrim centres;

(b) is so, the number of pilgrims visiting these centres annually;

(c) whether there are sufficient facilities for the pilgrims, including sanitation, drinking water etc.;

(d) if not, the steps taken to make such facilities and the funds allocated therefor during 1999-2000;

(e) the criteria for declaring a National Pilgrim Centre;

(f) whether there is proposal for declaring these centres as National Pilgrim Centres; and (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE

(SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) & (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.305 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16-03-2000 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF SABARIMALA AND ERUMELI PILGRIM CENTRES.

(a) & (b): The State Government has identified Sabarimala and Erumeli as important pilgrim centres. Over one lakh pilgrims visit these places per day during the season each year.

(c) & (d): The Development of infrastructure at Pilgrim Centres, providing facilities to the visitors at these places, their upkeep and maintenance is mainly undertaken by the State/Uts Governments concerned. However, Ministry of Tourism provide Central Financial Assistance for specific projects prioritised in consultation with the State/Uts Government every year. An amount of Rs. 104.89 lakhs has been sanctioned for development of infrastructural facilities at Sabarimala in 1998-99.

(e),(f) & (g): In May 1992 a Committee on the development of pilgrim tourism identified 19 centres and 2 circuits for tourism development in the first phase. Later a number of centres were added to the list in consultation with the State Governments. Sabarimala is included in the list of identified Pilgrim Centres. The State Government has now recommended Erumeli, to be also included in the list.